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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /130 W
----------077981 031756Z /42
R 031708Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5614
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 08960

BRUSSLES ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, SP, AG, MO, MR, XR, XI
SUBJECT: SPANISH AMBASSADORS TO AFRICA MEET IN MADRID TO DISCUSS OAU SUMMIT, SAHARAN SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: SPAIN'S AMBASSADORS TO AFRICA ASSEMBLED IN MADRID JULY 31-AUG 2 PRIMARILY TO DISCUSS THE OUTCOME OF THE KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT AND THE CURRENT SAHARAN SITUATION. THEIR CONCLUSIONS INCLUDED SATISFACTION WITH THE OAU'S
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NON-STATEMENT ON THE CANARIES COMBINED WITH THE ACKNOW-LEDGEMENT THAT SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO MAINTAIN AN ACTIVE DIPLOMATIC POSTURE ON THIS ISSUE IN ORDER TO PREVENT BACKSLIDING AT MONROVIA. THEY ALSO AGREED THAT THE GOS WOULD SUPPORT ANY APPROACH TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO THE SAHARA CONFLICT AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES INVOLVED AND UN SECGEN WALDHEIM. END SUMMARY

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2. OF THE FEW INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS TO INTRUDE IN RECENT DAYS ON SPAIN'S PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC MATTERS AND THE RITUAL AUGUST VACATIONS, AFRICAN CONCERNS--PARTICULARL INTERPRETATION OF THE OAU SUMMIT OUTCOME AND THE NEW AURITANIAN REGIME'S SEARCH FOR AN EXIT FROM ITS SAHARAN DILEMMA--HAVE BEEN GIVENE MOST ATTENTION BY THE MADRID PRESS AND, MORE IMPORTANT, BY GOVT OFFICIALDOM.

3. SPAIN'S AMBASSADORS TO AFRICA WERE CALLED TO MADRID THIS WEEK, WHERE THEY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THREE DAYS (JULY 31-AUG 2) OF MEETINGS, INCLUDING:

--A SESSION WITH FONMIN OREJA AND PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ DEVOTED TO PLOTTING THE GENERAL LINES AND OBJECTIVES OF FUTURE SPANISH POLICY IN AFRICA;

--WORKING MEETINGS WITH OREJA WHICH CENTERED PRIMARILY ON THE RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE OAU KHARTOUM SUMMIT AND ON THE SITUATION IN THE MAGHREB; AND

--A MEETING OF THE AMBASSADORS TO MAURITANIA, MOROCCO, THE SUDAN, AND THE OUTGOING AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA WITH OREJA, THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIES OF THE MAJOR PARTIES-RUPEREZ (UCD), YANEZ (PSOE), AZCARATE (PCE) AND LOPEZ BRAVO (AP)--AND THE CHAIRMEN OF THE CONGRESS AND SENATE CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEES.

4. REACTION TO KHARTOUM. WITH RESPECT TO THE OAU SUMMIT, THE FOCUS PREDICTAALY WAS ON WHAT THE AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE DID NOT SAY ABOUT THE CANARIES. PLEASURE WAS EXPRESSED OVER THE FACT THAT THE SUMMIT EFFECTIVELY PUT THE CANARIES ISSUE ON ICE BY NOT AFFIRMING THE AFRICAN-NESS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO OR RECOGNIZING THE CANARIES INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (MPAIAC). THIS POSITIVE DEVELOP-MENT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO A LESS AGGRESSIVE POSTURE ON THE PART OF ALGERIA THAN HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE CASE, AND MORE ASSERTIVENESS BY AFRICAN MODERATES. EVEN SO, IT ALSO WAS AGREED THAT SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO SUSTAIN ITS EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF THE SPANISHNESS OF THE CANARIES IN ORDER TO PREVENT BACKSLIDING AT NEXT YEAR'S SUMMIT IN MONROVIA.

5. THE SAHARA SITUATION. ONE OF THE EFFECTS OF THE SUM-MIT DECISIONS, AS INTERPRETED BY THE MADRID MEETING PARTICIPANTS, HAD BEEN TO "SEPARATE" THE SAHARAN AND CANARIES ISSUES. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AFRICA AND CONTINENTAL ASIA (LOPEZ AGUIRRE-

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BENGOA), WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE SESSIONS, TOLD THE
POLITICAL COUNSELOR AUG. 3 THAT VARIOUS POSSIBLE SOLU-
TIONS TO THE SAHARAN SITUATION WERE DISCUSSED, AND IT
WAS DECIDED THAT THE GOS WOULD SUPPORT ANY APPROACH TO
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES TO
THE CONFLICT AND UN SECGEN WALDHEIM. CONTRARY TO SOME
PRESS REPORTS THAT ATTENTION FOCUSED ON SUPPORT FOR
THE CONVOCATION, UNDER UN AUSPICES, OF A QUADRIPARTITE
CONFERENCE (ALGERIA, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, POLISARIO),
LOPEZ STATED THAT THE CONSENSUS HAD BEEN THAT SUCH
A CONFERENCE, THOUGH A STEP FORWARD A FEW MONTHS AGO,

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

WAS NOT NECESSARY AT THIS JUNCTURE, SINCE THE PARTIES
ALREADY WERE TALKING TO EACH OTHER. IN THIS REGARD,
THE KING RECEIVED IN PRIVATE AUDIENCE ON JULY 31 THE
MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR TO MADRID; THE MEETING WAS

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REPORTED IN THE PRESS WITHOUT COMMENT, IN A STANDARD COM-
MUNIQUE DETAILING THE KING'S DAILY AUDIENCES (SEPTEL).

6. FINALLY, IT REPORTEDLY WAS AGREED AT THE AMBASSADORIAL
MEETING THAT SPAIN WOULD GEAR UP ITS RELATIONS WITH THE
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AFRICAN STATES, INTENSIFYING ITS TIES WITH THE MODERATE
COUNTRIES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASIZING THOSE
ISSUES WHERE THERE IS A COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS WITH THE
PROGRESSIVE STATES, SUCH AS ON RACISM, SELF-DETERMINATION
AND RESTRUCTURED NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. ONE MEANS
WHICH WOULD BE EMPLOYED TOWARD THESE ENDS WOULD BE AN
INCREASE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S BUDGET FOR ECONOMIC
COOPERATION, FROM A CURRENT 120 MILLION PESETAS (ABOUT
US$ 1.7 MILLION) TO SOME 1.2 BILLION PESETAS (ABOUT
US$ 17 MILLION).

7. COMMENT: THE OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE INVITED TO
MEET WITH OREJA AND THE AMBASSADORS OBVIOUSLY IN AN
ATTEMPT TO SUSTAIN BIPARTISAN BACKING FOR, AND WE
ASSUME PARTICIPATION IN, THE GOVT'S APPROACH TO THE
CANARIES/SAHARA ISSUE. THEIR CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE
STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON EMERGING FROM THE MEETING
(YANEZ, FOR EXAMPLE, SAID THE GOVT'S POSITION ON THE
SAHARA APPEARED TO BE CONVERGING WITH THE PSOE'S) SEEM
TO INDICATE THAT OREJA ACHIEVED HIS PURPOSE. TODMAN

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Control Number: n/a
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